GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2439
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2016
Road Conectivity in Ladakh Region
Chhewang Shri Thupstan

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ladakh region of the Jammu and Kashmir State remains isolated approximately for six months during winter due to the absence of road connectivity having a direct impact on our defence preparedness;

(b) whether the Ministry is considering construction of roads to provide round the year connectivity to Ladakh;

(c) if so, the details of the road project under construction and those proposed to be taken up along with the details of funds allocated to each of these projects;

(d) the expected time frame for completion of each of these projects and the amount spent on them upto the current financial year;

(e) the current status of construction of yemo-padum-darcha road and the expected time frame for its completion; and

(f) whether the Ministry proposes to set up a special task force of the BRO for expediting progress of this important road project and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) Yes, Madam. Due to heavy snow fall during winter season, the roads leading to Ladakh region remain closed for 5-6 months every year.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) & (d): The present status of projects under construction are as under:

Name of road Length (in km) Estimated cost (Rs in crores) Amount spent (Rs in Crores) Expected time frame for completion

Srinagar −
Kargil −Leh
418 1092.31 956.99 2019
Manali −Sarchu-Upsi-Leh 472 1055.92 713.54 2020

Moreover, to negotiate the passes and to provide all weather road connectivity in the Ladakh region, in addition to the roads mentioned in table above, Rohtang tunnel on road Manali-Sarchu−Leh of length measuring 8.802km is under construction with date of completion as August 2019 and Approval in Principle to carry out feasibility study of Baralachla tunnel, Tanglangla tunnel on road Manali-Sarchu−Leh and Shinkula tunnel on Nimmu-Padam−Darcha has been accorded.

Further, to achieve all weather connectivity through National Highway, construction of Z-Morh tunnel and Zozila Tunnel are undertaken by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRT&H). The expected target date of completion for Z-Morh tunnel is 2020. Zozila tunnel is at tender stage and no timeline can be mentioned at present. Both the tunnels are to be constructed on Build, Own, Transfer (BOT) −Annuity mode of execution and funds are to spent by the concessionaires till the completion of project. The concessionaire shall be paid Semi−Annual Annuity amount by the Government only after successful completion of the project as per the concession agreement during the operation and maintenance period.

(e) The current status of Nimmu-Padam−Darcha road is mentioned below:

Name of road Length (in km) Estimated cost (Rs in Crores) Amount spent
(Rs. in Crores) Expected time frame for completion

Nimmu-Padam-Darcha 298 1212.79 204.51 2019

(f) Presently two Border roads task Forces are deployed for construction of Nimmu-Padam-Darcha road and there is no proposal to set up special task force.

******